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TO: Department of Energy Docket No. 2007-
(202) 586 - 8008 OE-01

FROM:

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NOTE: If there any problems, please contact (202) 225-6111.

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
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November 5, 2007

The Honorable Samuel Bodman
Secretary
Department of Energy
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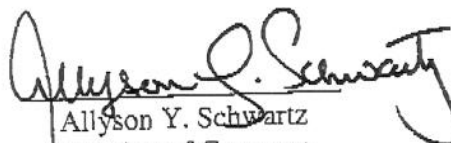
Dear Secretary Bodman,

I am writing to request a rehearing of the Department of Energy's October 5, 2007 order designating the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor. This designation will have an incredibly negative impact on my state and district, and I believe the Department erred in making this designation for several reasons.

First, it did not consider any alternatives prior to designating the corridor. The Federal Powers Act requires that any corridor be narrowly drawn and limited to areas that are experiencing electric energy transmission constraints or congestion, but for many of Pennsylvania's 52 counties that were included in the designation this is simply not the case. Secondly, the Department never prepared an environmental impact statement prior to making its decision as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Finally, I am concerned that the Department failed to consult with the state of Pennsylvania in a timely fashion while studying the transmission congestion. The Department should have given greater consideration to Pennsylvania's comments since most of the Commonwealth will be covered under this designation.

These reasons make it clear that a rehearing is needed for the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor designation. If you any questions about my request, please contact John Sherry of my staff at (202) 225-6111.

Sincerely,


Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

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